



Runge Conservation Nature Center

# Habitat Happenings

2006

September/October

You've strolled through a forest and ambled next to a stream, but have you visited a desert? In Missouri? Come get acquainted with a glade—one of Missouri's most extreme habitats.

Glades are open, rocky areas with very few trees. Because most glades are on slopes or ridge tops, rainfall doesn't soak in. Since there is no shade, rocks absorb heat and retain it. With a lack of windbreaks, increased wind causes even more evaporation. Missouri's dry, sunny, and hot glades are our own deserts.

Glades are extremely important. Some specialized glade plants and animals live nowhere else in Missouri, and a few of them live nowhere else on the planet! Explore a Missouri glade to find lichen grasshoppers, scorpions, tarantulas, reptiles, and even roadrunners. Some interesting glade plants you might see are compass plant, rattlesnake master, blazing star, and prickly pear cactus.

Glades are extremely beautiful. Spring, summer, and fall bring orange, red, white, purple, and yellow wildflowers, which contrast brilliantly with lichen-covered rocks. Glades' open and hilly conditions often provide sweeping vistas of the landscape.

Glades are extremely vulnerable. Glades need occasional fires to keep them free from invading cedar trees. Luckily, several agencies and landowners conduct controlled burns on their glades to keep them

healthy. Glades are one of the most endangered habitats in Missouri.

Want to learn more about this extremely interesting habitat? In this newsletter you'll find some Glad-to-Know Glade Facts and a list of glades you can visit in your area. Check one out. You'll be extremely glad you did!

Kevin Lohraff, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

## Extreme Habitat



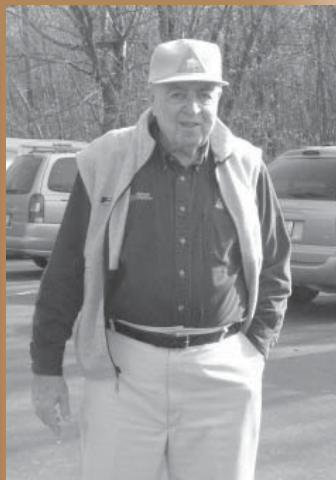
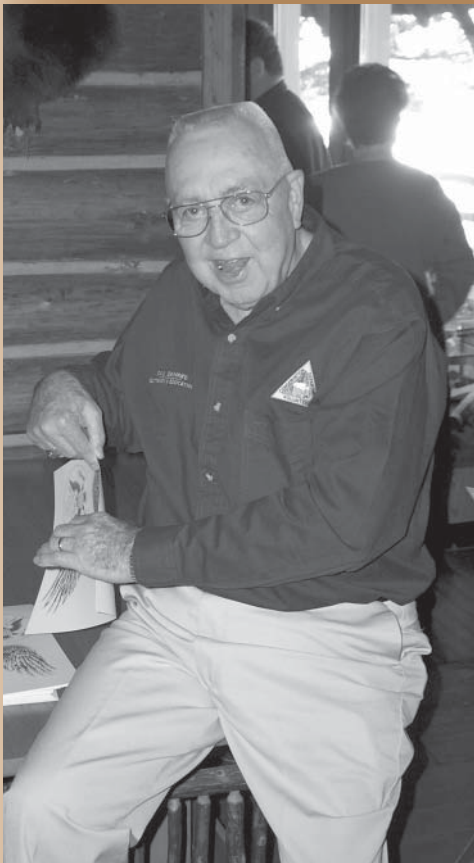
Prickly Pear Cactus

## News

### Runge Pays Tribute to Long-Term Volunteer **Gail Oehrke**

1926-2006

Runge staff and volunteers were saddened in July to learn of the death of Gail Oehrke, who had been a Runge volunteer since 1993. Gail helped thousands of Runge visitors at special events, off-site exhibits, and Conservation Kids' Club, and had recently reached the 5,000-hour milestone of volunteer service. Gail was a friend to all of us, and will be greatly missed.



## Lobby Exhibits

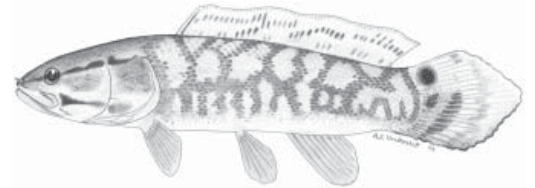
### September

#### ***Sherry's Story–Nature Drawings***

In 1991, Sherry Adams was in a motorcycle accident and suffered a severe brain injury. Through her struggles and perseverance for life, she reconnected with her passion—drawing and painting. As her journey unfolded, a mentor entered into her art world. That individual was Professor Charlie Craver, a retired college art teacher, who provided immeasurable support through his words and teachings. Today, she shares the beauty of nature with us in the forms of oil painting, charcoal, and lead drawings.

### October

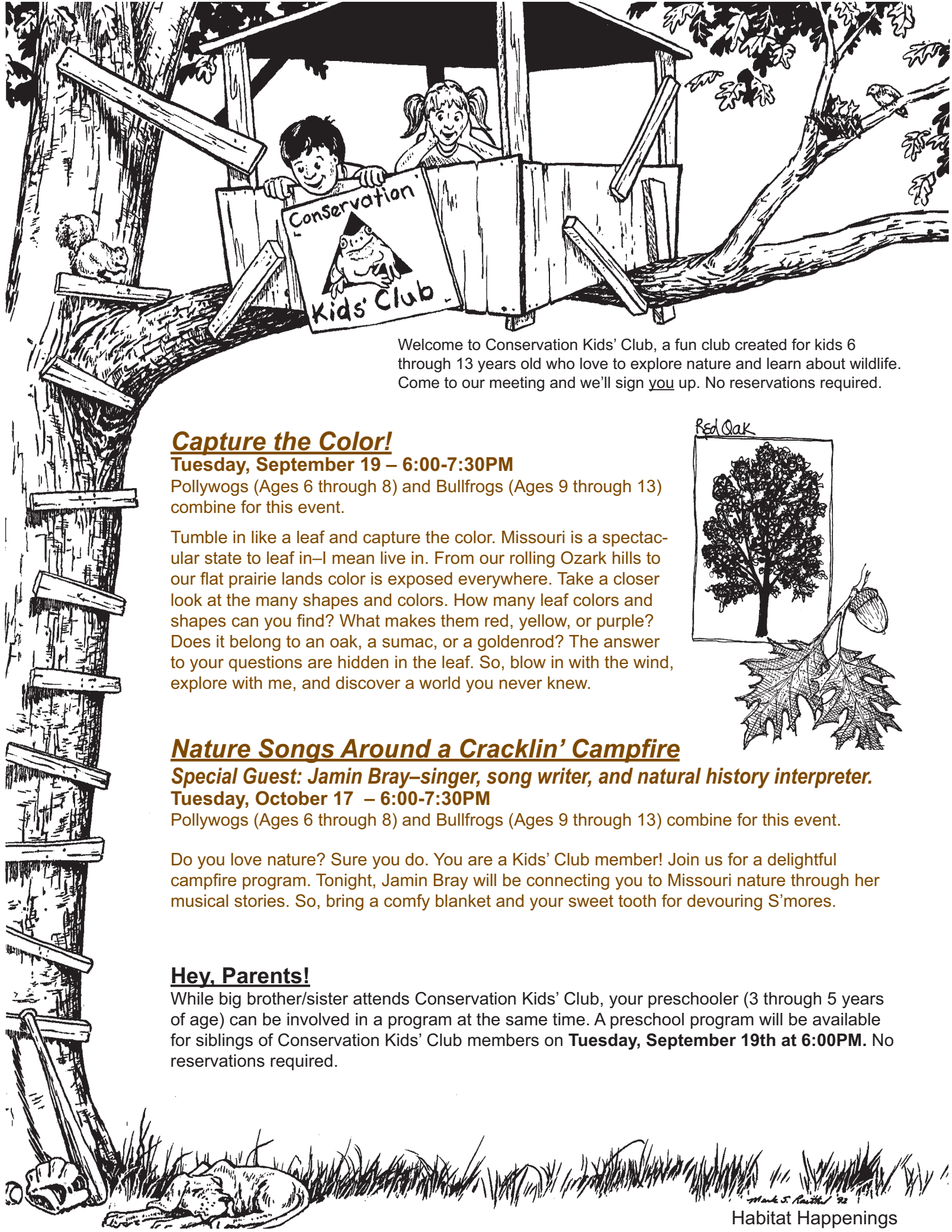
#### ***AJ's Story–Swamp Fish***



AJ Hendershott's love for the outdoors and art began at age five. His first memorable project was making birds out of construction paper and crayons. These cutouts were used as decoys to attract wild birds to his feeder. As a grade-school child, fish became a fascination. What *hooked* him on fish? It was a Missouri's fish brochure he brought home from the fair! This simple love of outdoors led him to a career with the Missouri Department of Conservation and a passion for swamps and the fish that lurk below. Come view his colored pencil drawings and expose yourself to the mysterious fishes of our Missouri swamps.

**Runge Conservation Nature Center** is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the nature center entrance on the left. The nature center is open Monday through Saturday 8AM to 5PM and Noon to 5PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544 [www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)





Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required.

### **Capture the Color!**

**Tuesday, September 19 – 6:00-7:30PM**

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Tumble in like a leaf and capture the color. Missouri is a spectacular state to leaf in—I mean live in. From our rolling Ozark hills to our flat prairie lands color is exposed everywhere. Take a closer look at the many shapes and colors. How many leaf colors and shapes can you find? What makes them red, yellow, or purple? Does it belong to an oak, a sumac, or a goldenrod? The answer to your questions are hidden in the leaf. So, blow in with the wind, explore with me, and discover a world you never knew.

Red Oak



### **Nature Songs Around a Cracklin' Campfire**

**Special Guest: Jamin Bray—singer, song writer, and natural history interpreter.**

**Tuesday, October 17 – 6:00-7:30PM**

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Do you love nature? Sure you do. You are a Kids' Club member! Join us for a delightful campfire program. Tonight, Jamin Bray will be connecting you to Missouri nature through her musical stories. So, bring a comfy blanket and your sweet tooth for devouring S'mores.

### **Hey, Parents!**

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00PM**. No reservations required.



October 27  
6-9PM  
Haunted Habitats

Create your very own "wild thing" on the activity page inside.

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**Habitat Happenings**  
Runge Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



# **Haunted Habitats 2006 Activity Page**

Let the wild rumpus start by creating your very own

## **Wild Thing!**

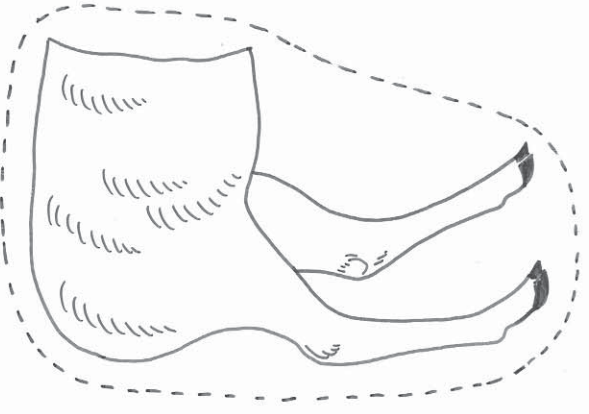
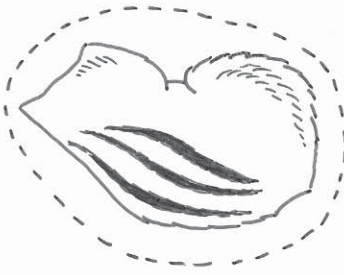
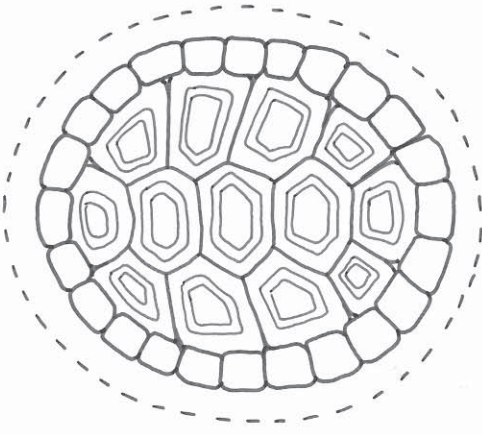
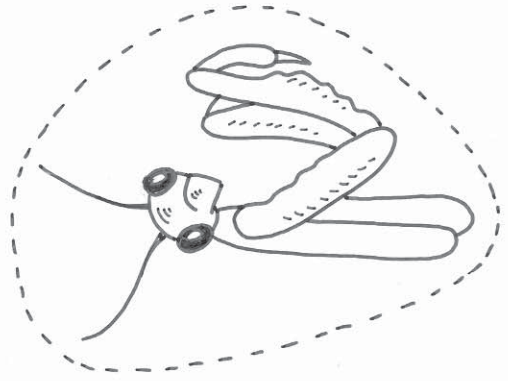
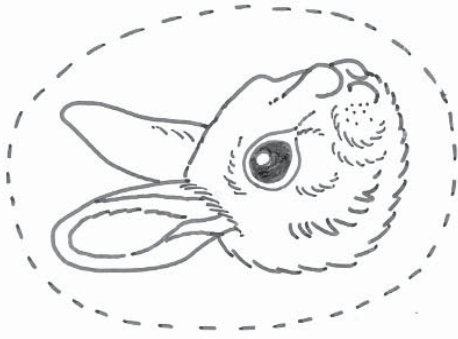
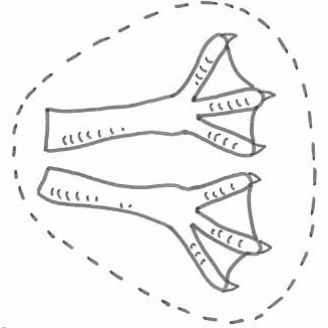
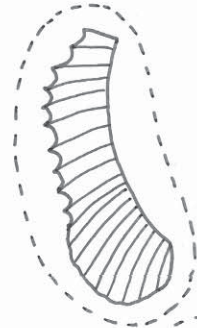
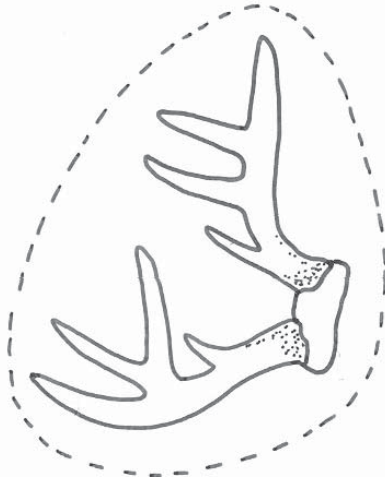
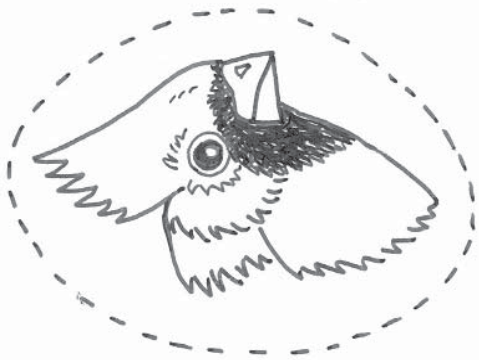
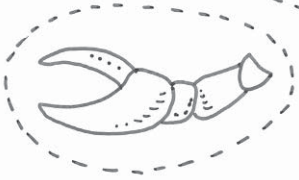
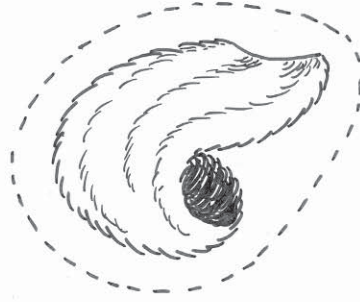
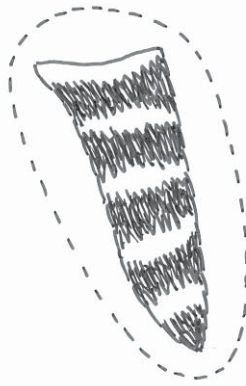
Color and cut the animal parts of your choice from this page. Then glue them on the next page. Add more color and drawings to your **Wild Thing's** habitat. Bring or mail the completed picture by October 20th to:

Runge Conservation Nature Center  
PO Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

All artists will be entered into a drawing for a wild thing surprise and each piece of artwork will be displayed during our Haunted Habitats event. Don't forget to fill in the information on the back of your picture!

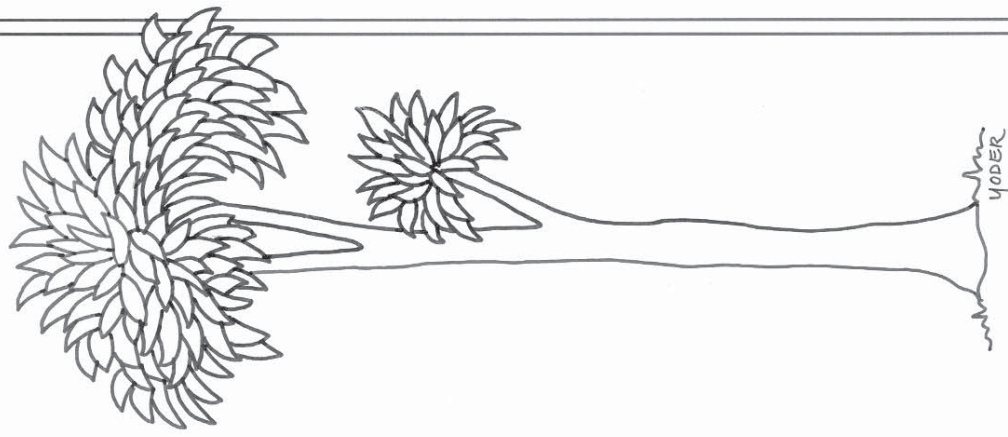
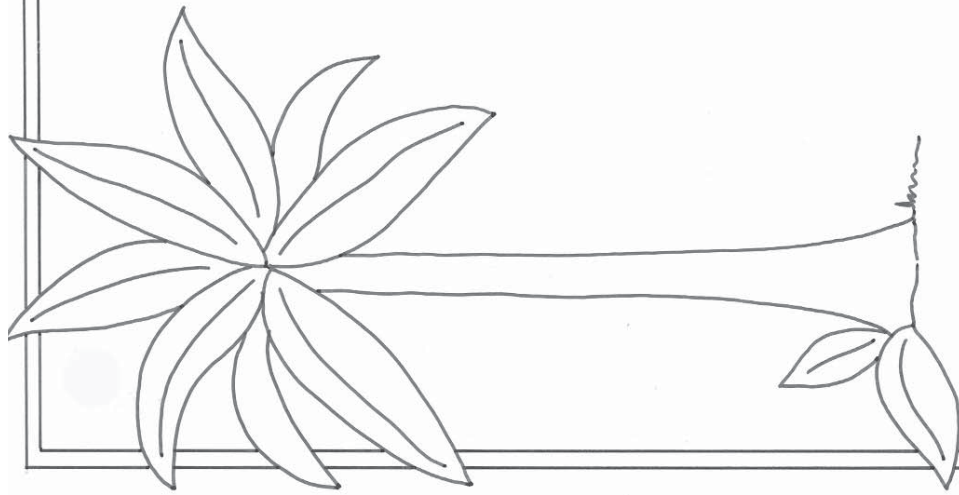
Questions? Please call 573/526-5544





# Where the Wild Things Are!

Runge Haunted Habitats 2006



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_



# September Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on September 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

## 2 Saturday Creek Walk

Time: 1:00-3:00PM  
Ages: 8 years and older  
Let's take a walk in the creek that runs through Runge. You never know what we will find – rocks, minnows, crayfish, and hopefully water! Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get wet. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required.

## 13 Wednesday Runge Midweek Trekkers

Time: 8:00AM–5:30PM  
Ages: 18 years and older  
Take a hike! Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide more opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Like the Runge Hiking Club, Midweek Trekkers is for beginners and experienced hikers alike. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.  
Some of Missouri's finest and most diverse natural communities are showcased at **Meramec State Park**. Within the park's 6,896 acres lie expansive savannas, open woodlands, towering forests, sheer bluffs, and rocky glades. This month, we'll hike the south loop of the **Wilderness Trail** (6 miles, \*\*\*), which takes us into the most rugged and remote area of the park. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers.

- \*Easiest trail-flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)
- \*\*Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
- \*\*\*Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*\*Most difficult-significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

## 13 Wednesday Earth Connections Badge

Time: 6:00-7:30PM  
Ages: Girl Scouts - Juniors  
Reservations required.

## 14 Thursday How To Be A Birdwatcher!

Time: 7:00-8:00PM  
Ages: Adults  
Learn bird basics and beyond! Brad Jacobs, Wildlife Ecologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation and author of *Birds in Missouri*, will talk about birds and their habitats; bird identification by sight, voice, and behavior; bird equipment and books; and places to find birds. If you want to become more skilled at bird watching, this program is for you! Beginners and experienced birders are all welcome. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

Habitat Happenings

## 20 Wednesday Forester Badge

Time: 6:30-7:30PM  
Ages: Cub Scouts - Webelos  
Reservations required.

## 21 Thursday Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM  
Ages: 50 years and older  
This month we look at one of nature's bountiful harvests—the versatile acorn. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20" square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for the subject. Reservations required.

## 21 Thursday Hunter Education Course

Time: 6:00-9:00PM  
Ages: 11 years and older  
This 10-hour certification course is required for every hunter born after January 1, 1967. **Continues on Friday, September 22, 6:00-10:00PM, and concludes on Saturday, September 23, 8:00AM-Noon.** Reservations required.

## 23 Saturday Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM–5:30PM  
Ages: 18 years and older  
See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.  
The largest group of petroglyphs in the state is in **Washington State Park**, where thunderbirds, snakes, arrows, and other symbols were carved in limestone bedrock between 400 and 1,000 years ago. Join us as we hike the **1,000 Steps Trail** (1.5 miles, \*\*\*\*), and the **Opossum Track Trail** (3 miles, \*\*\*\*). We'll view the petroglyphs, gaze at scenic overlooks of the Big River valley, and hike next to natural shelves and tabletops of weathered dolomite. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

## 23 Saturday Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

Time: 1:30-4:00PM  
Ages: 6-10 years (accompanied by an adult)  
Although this is not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We will cover the commandments of firearms and safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety. Reservations required.

### Glades You Can Visit

Rocky Top and Coakley Hollow Trails at Lake of the Ozarks State Park  
Turkey Pen Hollow at Ha Ha Tonka State Park  
Wildcat Glade Natural Area in Wildcat Park near Joplin  
Rocky Barrens Conservation Area (Greene County)  
Henning Conservation Area near Branson  
Taum Sauk Mountain State Park (Iron and Reynolds Counties)  
Lamotte Sandstone Barrens Natural Area in Hawn State Park  
Victoria Glade Conservation Area (Jefferson County)  
Valley View Glades Natural Area (Jefferson County)

## For the little ones

Exciting and age-appropriate opportunities to connect with nature are presented each month for the youngest among us!

### Babes In The Woods

**Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. Programs are limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.**

Tuesday, September 12 – 10:00AM  
Friday, September 15 – 10:00AM  
Saturday, September 16 – 10:00AM  
Thursday, September 21 – 10:00AM

### Little Acorns

**Children ages 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.**

Thursday, September 14 – 10:00AM  
Tuesday, September 19 – 10:00AM  
Friday, September 29 – 1:00PM  
Saturday, September 30 – 10:00AM

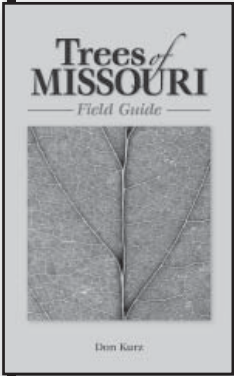
### Spiders

They show up in nursery rhymes, songs, and children's stories. Thousands can be found in forests and fields. Hundreds may be in your backyard and some can even share your house with you! Let's look closer at these tiny animals—spiders—that live with us. Reservations required.

## Nature Shop News

September/October featured item

20% OFF



### Trees of Missouri Field Guide

Based on Don Kurz's original Trees of Missouri, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood, or natural area.

Discounted Price: \$6.00 plus tax  
Heritage card discount does not apply.

### Glad-to-Know Glade Facts

Tiny hairs on glade plants decrease wind velocity and help hold moisture.

A glade can be 15 degrees warmer than the surrounding forest.

Tarantulas can flip irritating hairs out of their abdomen into the face of predators.

The roadrunner can run 15 miles per hour.



# October Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on October 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

## For the little ones

Exciting and age-appropriate opportunities to connect with nature are presented each month for the youngest among us!

### Babes In The Woods

*Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. Programs are limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.*

Friday, October 6 – 10:00AM  
Thursday, October 19 – 10:00AM  
Saturday, October 21 – 10:00AM  
Tuesday, October 24 – 10:00AM

### Little Acorns

*Children ages 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.*

Thursday, October 5 – 10:00AM  
Saturday, October 7 – 10:00AM  
Friday, October 13 – 10:00AM  
Wednesday, October 18 – 1:00PM

### Changes In Nature

Fall days are busy days for animals before the cold winter settles in. We will look and listen for the sounds of activity around us and learn how different animals prepare for the upcoming winter. Reservations required.

## 5 Thursday

### Hunter Education Course

*Time: 6:00-9:00PM*

*Ages: 11 years and older*

This 10-hour certification course is required for every hunter born after January 1, 1967.

**Continues on Friday, October 6, 6:00-10:00PM, and concludes on Saturday, October 7, 8:00AM-Noon.** Reservations required.

*Reservations will be accepted starting on September 1st.*

## 11 Wednesday

### Runge Midweek Trekkers

*Time: 8:00AM–5:00PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

Many pioneers from Kentucky and Tennessee settled in the Ozark hill country, perhaps because the area reminded them of their Appalachian homeland. We'll explore some of this country in the Mark Twain National Forest and find a hidden natural tunnel on the **Kaintuck Trail** (6 miles, \*\*\*\*) on the **Mill Creek Area**, which is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Houston/Rolla District. We'll eat lunch along the trail, so bring a small pack, your lunch, and water. Hiking boots are recommended for this trip. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

## 11 Wednesday

### Animal Try-It

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: Girl Scouts - Brownies*

Reservations required.

## 11 Wednesday

### Deer Processing

*Time: 6:30-8:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. Reservations required.

## 12 Thursday

### An Intro to Optics for Your Birding Adventures

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: Adults*

Learn all about binoculars, monoculars, and spotting scopes. Steve and Regina Garr from Birds-I-View in Jefferson City will explain the various features of these essential pieces of equipment and how to select optics that meet your needs. Learn about the new technology in optics too, so you can be better prepared for birding in your backyard or Costa Rica. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

## 15 Sunday

### Wild Edibles

*Time: 1:00-2:30PM*

*Ages: 8 years and older*

Nature's bounty is ripe for the tasting! There is a wide variety of delicious edibles to identify and taste at this program. We'll discuss collecting tips, hike to test our identification skills, then return to the nature center for a wild feast. Bring your appetites! Reservations required.

## 19 Thursday

### Nature's Needlers

*Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: 50 years and older*

Not ready to give up flowers yet? Our October topic covers fall wildflowers. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20" square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for the subject. Reservations required.

## 21 Saturday

### Runge Hiking Club

*Time: 8:00AM–5:30PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

The landscape at **Ha Ha Tonka State Park** is a beautiful blend of karst features, forested hills, woodlands, and glades. We'll begin on the **Spring Trail** (1.5 miles, \*\*\*\*) to visit the spring and brave the 316 vertical steps on the boardwalk. After lunch, we'll hike through one of the state's finest glade and savanna landscapes on the **Turkey Pen Hollow Trail** (5 miles, \*\*\*). Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

### Glad-to-Know Glade Facts

The compass plant's leaves align themselves pointing north and south.

The Indian paintbrush wildflower has special roots that steal water from other plants.

The flat-headed snake averages 7.5 inches and is Missouri's smallest snake.

"Glade" comes from an old English word meaning bright or cheerful.

## 21 Saturday

### Introduction to Deer Hunting

*Time: 1:00-4:00PM*

*Ages: 6 years and older*

Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners, from tags to scouting, and from clothing to hunting methods. Reservations required.

## 25 Wednesday

### Bear Achievement #5

### "Sharing Your World With Wildlife" Badge

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: Cub Scouts - Bears*

Reservations required.

## 27 Friday

### Haunted Habitats: Where the Wild Things Are

*Time: 6:00-9:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Join us for a fun-filled evening!

Exploration Trail for 3-7 years of age.

Interpretative stations for all ages.

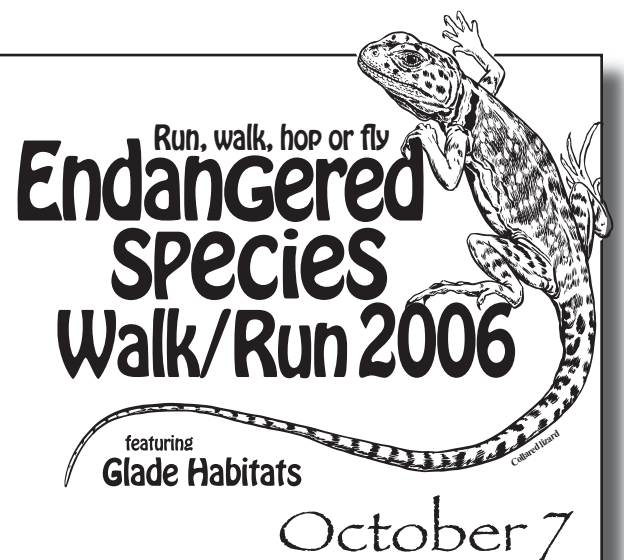
Hands-on activities.

Kettle Corn.

Costume Corner with photo opportunity.

And lots more!

Rain date is October 28.  
No reservations required.



Join other walkers and runners to raise funds to help restore habitat, conduct research, and support education projects for endangered animals and plants in Missouri. The 7th annual Endangered Species Walk/Run is co-hosted by the Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jefferson City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.

There will be two new additions to this year's event—a Button Contest and Youth Team Registration. For more information and for registration forms, visit the MDC website at [www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/es\\_walkrun/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/es_walkrun/).

Participants can choose from three race options: 5K walk, 5K run, and 10K run. All three races start at the Jefferson City Pavilion north of the Missouri River.

The \$20 registration fee includes a long-sleeved colored t-shirt with original artwork by MDC artist Mark Raithel. (Add \$5 after early registration deadline of September 20.)